

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
HA-05 L-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-10
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 13777

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJECT: 31ST SESSION - SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF
DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES -
GENOCIDE (ITEM 17)

REF: (A) GENEVA 13662 (B) GENEVA 13513

1. SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR NICODEME
RUHASHYANKIKE (RWANDA) APPEARED TO PRESENT HIS REPORT
ON GENOCIDE DURING AFTERNOON MEETING SEPTEMBER 12 (REF B).
FOLLOWING INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY A MAJORITY OF THE S-C
EXPERTS SUPPORTED THE AUTHOR'S CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMEN-
DATIONS (DOC E/CN.4/SUB.2/416 PARAS 611-627) BUT
CRITICIZED THE RAPPORTEUR FOR DELEING HISTORICAL
SECTIONS OF THE DOCUMENT, SPECIFICALLY THE REFERENCE TO
THE 1915 MASSACRE OF ARMENIANS IN TURKEY. EXPERTS ARGUED
THAT THE MASSACRE WAS A HISTORICAL FACT AND AN IMPORTANT
GUIDE IN HELPING TO PREVENT SUCH OCCURRENCES IN THE
FUTURE. FISEK, THE TURKISH EXPERT, SUPPORTED BY GOT OB-
SERVER, EXPRESSED SURPRIZE BY THE TONE OF THE DISCUSSION
WHICH HE HAD EXPECTED WOULD FOCUS ON THE PREVENTION OF
GENOCIDE. INSTEAD, HE SAID THE DEBATE WAS A HARANGUE
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AGAINST THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE. THE SITUATION OCCURRED, HE
EXPLAINED, DURING A WAR AND SOME OF THE MILITARY WERE TOO
ZEALOUS. THEY WERE, FISEK DECLARED, PUNISHED FOR THEIR
DEEDS. HE SAID THE ISSUE ONLY STIRS UP ENMITY AND CON-
CLUDED HIS REMARKS BY NOTING THAT IF HISTORY IS TO BE
STATED CLEARLY AND CORRECTLY THE S-C SHOULD REMEMBER
THAT GENOCIDE DID NOT BEGIN WITH THE ARMENIANS.

2. IN HIS REPLY THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR SAID HE HAD RECEIVED AN EXTREMELY LARGE NUMBER OF LETTERS BOTH FOR AND AGAINST INCLUSION OF THE ARMENIAN INCIDENT BUT BECAUSE THERE WAS SOME CONCERN THAT A STUDY ON GENOCIDE MIGHT LOSE ITS ESSENCE IF IT BECAME TOO HISTORICAL, THE ONLY GENOCIDE EPISODE INCLUDED IS THE NAZI GERMANY EXTERMINATION OF JEWS. RAPPORTEUR SAID NO ONE OBJECTED TO CITING THIS HISTORICAL FACT. HE SAID, IF THE S-C SO DECIDED, THE ARMENIAN MASSACRE WOULD BE RESTORED TO THE TEXT. ITEM WAS CONCLUDED WITHOUT ANY COMMENT ABOUT RE-INSERTING THE INCIDENT IN THE STUDY..

3. COMMENT: MISOFF WAS TOLD BY SEVERAL NGOS THAT REFERENCE TO ARMENIANS WAS DELETED AT THE INSISTENCE OF TURKS DELS IN S-C AND IN ECOSOC. END COMMENT.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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